



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Annual Report

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Office of the Registrar General

for the year ending December 31, 1981



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Office of the
Minister

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

416/963-0311

555 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
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May 1, 1982

The Honourable
John Black Aird, O.C., Q.C., B.A., LL.D.
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Ontario

May it please your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting, for the information of your Honour and the Legislative Assembly, the Annual Report of the Registrar General, relating to the Registration of Births, Marriages, Deaths, Still-births, Adoptions, Divorces and Changes of Name in the Province of Ontario, for the year ending December 31, 1981.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. R. R." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Minister of Consumer & Commercial Relations
and Registrar General



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Office of the
Registrar
General

Macdonald Block
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y5

416/965

May 1, 1982

The Honourable Robert Elgie, M.D.
Minister of Consumer and
Commercial Relations and
Registrar General
555 Yonge Street
9th Floor
TORONTO, Ontario

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit for your approval the Annual Report made in conformity with and under the provisions of The Vital Statistics Act for the year ending December 31st, 1981.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Rosemarie Drapkin
Deputy Registrar General



ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

The annual report of the Office of the Registrar General has been prepared to inform Ontario citizens about the number of births, marriages, deaths, still-births, adoptions, divorces and name changes registered during the past calendar year in accordance with the office's reporting responsibilities under Section 3, subsection 5 of The Vital Statistics Act.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES	1
VOLUME OF REGISTRATIONS AND TABLE	1
PRODUCT FIGURES AND TABLE	2
REVENUE	3
REGISTRATIONS:	
Births, Deaths, Marriages	4
Re-registrations	5
Delayed Registrations	5
Adoptions	5
Divorces	5
Name Changes	5
Parentage File	6
AMENDMENTS	6
HYPHENATED/COMBINED SURNAME	6
MICROFILMING AND REPRODUCTIONS	6
DATA PROCESSING	6
INSPECTIONS	7
STATISTICS	7

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Annual Report

for the year ending December 31, 1981

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES

The Office of the Registrar General performs major statutory and statistical functions in the public service. By statute it administers The Vital Statistics Act and The Marriage Act. It also provides statistical data on births, deaths, marriages, still-births, adoptions, divorces and name changes and issues this information to authorized agencies.

VOLUME OF REGISTRATIONS

Total registrations of births, deaths, marriages and still-births have increased slightly over 1980.

Table No. 1 indicates the number of registrations received from January 1 to December 31 for 1979 to 1981. Some overlap always exists because returns for events occurring late in the previous year arrive in the current year.

Because of the number of statutory holidays during December, a number of returns will be forwarded in the new year and be counted in the current year's returns.

TABLE NO. 1

	Returns Received in 1981	Returns Received in 1980	Returns Received in 1979
Births	122,874	124,183	122,296
Deaths	65,371	63,435	62,135
Stillbirths	989	950	974
Marriages	69,896	67,869	67,739
TOTALS	259,130	256,437	253,144

TABLE NO. 1A
Comparative Birth, Death and Marriage Figures
1957-1980

<u>Year</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Marriages</u>
1957	150,920	49,164	46,780
1958	152,637	48,677	46,894
1959	157,124	50,600	46,598
1960	159,245	51,484	45,855
1961	157,663	50,997	44,434
1962	156,053	52,156	44,454
1963	155,089	53,617	45,306
1964	152,729	52,704	48,501
1965	141,160	54,346	51,274
1966	131,942	54,171	54,571
1967	127,509	54,878	58,377
1968	126,257	55,552	62,109
1969	130,398	55,707	67,150
1970	134,724	56,769	68,880
1971	130,395	56,623	69,590
1972	125,060	58,905	72,278
1973	123,776	59,876	72,371
1974	124,173	60,529	72,716
1975	125,701	60,550	72,208
1976	122,656	60,684	69,364
1977	122,758	61,356	67,730
1978	120,964	61,116	67,491
1979	121,655	61,468	67,980
1980	123,316	62,675	68,840

SEARCHES, PHOTOSTATS AND XEROX PRINTS

The original application for a registration is called a search. The fee for any certificate covers a search for a five-year period, if necessary. All applications are given a five-year search before a "no record" letter may be issued. Approximately 20 per cent of all registrations, require a search of more than one year.

Last year the public requested, by mail or in person, approximately 405,000 certificates. In addition, 18,658 verifications were made for other government departments and authorized agencies. This figure includes 6,004 searches made for Family Benefits Allowance and 6,409 searches and verifications for children's aid societies.

The Chief Coroner's Office was supplied with approximately 24,000 photocopies of current death registrations which had involved a coroner. An additional 172,000 photostat prints were required for this office, other jurisdictions, cancer research, statistics, corrections, amendments and related uses.

CERTIFICATES

During 1981, 405,330 certificates, certified copies and "no record" letters were issued, a decrease of 4.6 per cent over 1980.

Birth certificates issued for children under five years of age totalled 91,655, 32.5 per cent of birth certificates issued. In the 16 to 21 age bracket, the total was 45,930 or 16.3 per cent. For those 18 years of age the total was 6,771 or 2.4 per cent of all birth certificates issued.

Of the 30,285 death certificates issued 21,696 or 71.6 per cent related to deaths in 1981 and 2,943 or 9.7 percent related to deaths in 1980. Only 5,646 certificates, 18.6 per cent of the total, were issued for deaths occurring between 1869 and 1979.

Of the 28,561 marriage certificates issued, 14,741 or 51.6 per cent, related to marriages solemnized in the last 10 years.

See Table No. 2 - next page

REVENUE

The revenue collected by the Office of the Registrar General between January and December 1981 was \$3,138,118. Included is the revenue from searches and certificates at \$1,827,859, a decrease of 13.6 per cent from 1980. This was due to the decrease in certificates issued.

TABLE NO. 2 - Certificates Issued

	IN 1981	%	IN 1980	%	IN 1979	%
	INCREASE		INCREASE		INCREASE	
Births	282,234	-5.6	298,907	-16.7	359,163	-10.0
Deaths	30,285	-6.8	32,503	-8.3	35,454	4.0
Marriages	28,561	-1.7	29,064	-15.5	34,405	3.0
Certified Copies	45,239	-2.0	46,139	8.2	42,640	11.0
No-Record Letters	9,855	-2.2	10,082	-17.7	12,252	8.0
Genealogy	9,156	11.3	8,223	-20.7	10,371	23.0
	405,330	-4.6	424,918	-14.0	494,285	- 5.0

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

No serious problems relating to the registration of births, deaths and marriages occurred during the past year. Division Registrars generally adhered to the requirement that they submit weekly returns. Occasional problems, especially in small or remote areas, are usually caused by turnover of staff in municipal offices, funeral directors who are having difficulties obtaining medical statements, clergymen who do not forward marriage registrations and parents who fail to register a birth. These relatively few problems are usually quickly resolved.

During 1981 of the approximately 300,000 applications for birth certificates received for years 1869 to date, 2.0 per cent were found to be not registered. Of these approximately 32 per cent were for the period 1869 to 1921.

Registration is more accurate and complete in recent years because parents are more aware of its importance. Because the parents of each child registered automatically receives a "Notice of Birth Registration" which contains most of the birth particulars they have provided, they have the opportunity to correct any errors or make any given name changes. These notices may also be used to apply for the child's birth certificate. This has encouraged parents of nearly half the children born to apply for birth certificates during the year of birth. These early applications have reduced the flood of applications formerly experienced when a child is entering school.

RE-REGISTRATION ON INTERMARRIAGE OF THE PARENTS

The provisions of The Vital Statistics Act make it possible for an unmarried mother who subsequently marries the natural father of her child to re-register the birth of the child. During 1981 there were approximately 800 such cases handled either through the mail or by having the parent visit the office.

DELAYED REGISTRATION

Most applications for delayed registration, 1,505 of which were approved in 1981, pertained to persons born before 1930. A great many applicants apply for delayed registration for the Old Age Pension or Old Age Assistance.

REGISTRATION OF ADOPTION ORDERS

A copy of every adoption order granted by a court in Ontario is forwarded by the registrar of the court to the Office of the Registrar General together with any other information needed under The Vital Statistics Act concerning registration of adoptions. When an order regarding adoption is received by this office, an application is made by the adopting parents for re-registration of their child, the original registration is removed and sealed and a new registration is filed which contains the particulars of the adopting parents.

During the past year, 4,776 adoption orders were filed and indexed in this office, and of these 345 were in respect to children born in other provinces. Copies of these adoption orders were forwarded to the vital records offices of the provinces concerned. During the year 3,811 children were re-registered by removing the old registration and completing and substituting a new one bearing the particulars of the adoptive parents.

REGISTRATION OF DIVORCE

Details regarding dissolutions and nullities of marriage are entered in the Registry of the Supreme Court of Canada which has jurisdiction over divorces. Each province no longer has to provide copies of divorces to the province where the marriage occurred. This office receives a copy of the divorce registration for all divorces granted in Ontario and maintains an alphabetical divorce index. During 1981, 23,713 were filed, an increase of 1266 over the previous year.

LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME

Since The Change of Name Act came into effect in 1939, it has been illegal in this province for a person to change his or her name except in accordance with this Statute. After receiving notice of legal change of name the Registrar General must file the notice and, if the change pertains to someone born or married in Ontario, to make the necessary amendments to the registration record. This office filed 2,179 such orders, an decrease of 211 over the previous year.

PARENTAGE FILE

A file of parents pursuant to the Children's Law Reform Act, 1977, was instituted on March 31, 1978. There were 6,790 filings for this file during 1981.

CORRECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO REGISTRATION

Under The Vital Statistics Act, it is possible to amend or correct a vital record. During the past year under this section 4,092 registrations were amended.

When a registration received by this Office appears to be incomplete or incorrect, a questionnaire is sent to the informant to secure the necessary information. Upon receipt of the information, the record is altered accordingly. During the year there were 2,111 corrections of this type.

There were 481 births registered by parents' consent to single mothers and commonlaw unions.

HYPHENATED/COMBINED SURNAMES

In 1981, 385 children were registered in the hyphenated/combined surname of the father and the mother, an increase of 60 from 1980.

MICROFILMING AND REPRODUCTIONS

All registrations of births, marriages, deaths and still-births are microfilmed immediately. All indices prepared for these events by data processing are microfilmed annually. All supplementary documents filed at the time of registration or amendment or correction are microfilmed immediately.

In addition, 59,830 photocopies and 11,400 xerox prints required for certified copies and departmental and inter-departmental use were prepared.

DATA PROCESSING

Our data processing program provides daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual alphabetic indices for births, deaths, marriages, and still-births, and monthly indices for divorces, adoptions, changes of name, parentage, amendments and corrections. All statistical tables required for tentative figures given out from this office are also processed this way. Under agreement, completed statistical and index tapes are supplied to Statistics Canada. Any publications relating to Ontario vital statistics prepared by the federal government use data provided by this office.

INSPECTORS

The Office of the Registrar General provides nearly 1,000 division registrars throughout the province with two inspectors who instruct them and provide assistance in maintaining their office's records. They also visit municipal clerks, funeral directors, hospitals, cemetery owners, doctors, ministers, priests, children's aid societies, etc., and as required, assist the general public.

STATISTICAL SECTION

The statistical section is the centre for compiling and issuing statistics. The comprehensive Annual Statistical Report is sent to medical officers of health, division registrars of the larger centres, libraries, universities, the media and township offices. Other statistical data are supplied to various agencies upon request.

The statistical section, in co-operation with the index and micro-film sections, also provides varied types of assistance for special statistical studies. For example, various universities conduct studies on cancer and infant mortality. The assistance includes numerous index searches, data verification and the supply of selected xerox copies.



